

Call for Workshop Papers

The Economics of Land-Use Change: Advancing the Frontiers

Washington DC June 25– 26, 2009

Deadline for Abstract Submission: February 15, 2009

The pace and pattern of land-use change in the United States and elsewhere has compelled many communities to demand and implement new policies due to both the environmental and fiscal impacts associated with the increasing urban and suburban landscape as well as questions of food security and global climate change resulting from the loss of farm and forest land. In addition to concerns related to the total amount of resource lands lost, the location, distribution, and pattern of these land use changes determines the local government costs of providing infrastructure such as roads, schools, sewer, water and other public services; the amount and type of nonpoint source pollution into water bodies; the loss of open space amenities; increased time commuting with associated air pollution and congestion; as well as ecological effects including hydrological disturbances and habitat fragmentation. Understanding the impacts of different land use patterns on numerous ecological services and the potential relationship between these patterns and potential government policies, have also gained in importance but are difficult to analyze given currently available modeling methods.

This highly focussed workshop seeks to bring together researchers at the forefront of theoretical, empirical, and policy aspects of economics focused on spatially explicit land use modeling. We expect to accept eight selected papers, resulting from this call for papers, as well as have three invited background presentations with a total of 20-25 participants. The three invited presentations will provide an overview of the state of the art in theoretical modeling (Elena Irwin), empirical modeling (Jacqueline Geoghegan and Alexander Pfaff) and policy issues (Lori Lynch). In addition to the invited and selected paper presenters, other distinguished researchers in the field have been invited to attend the workshop, such as Nancy Bockstael and Kerry Smith and others, to be confirmed.

We invite submissions of two page abstracts for consideration for presentation as one of the eight selected papers for this workshop. Through generous support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, travel expenses (lowest airfare and hotel accommodations) will be provided for one presenter of each of the selected papers. The workshop will be held at the Mathematical Association of America's Carriage House, just off of Dupont Circle in Washington D.C.

The goal of the conference organizers is to subsequently publish the invited and selected papers as a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal.

Questions can be directed to either of the two workshop organizers: Jacqueline Geoghegan (jgeoghegan@clarku.edu) or Lori Lynch (llynch@arec.umd.edu). Submissions of two page abstracts should be sent to Jacqueline Geoghegan by February 15, 2009.